

REMARKS

Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 2-4, 8, 13-28 are pending in the application, and Claims 1, 5-7, 9-12, and 29 are cancelled. Claims 16-28 are withdrawn from consideration, and Claims 2-4, 8, 13, and 14 are amended herewith.

Minor amendments have been made to the specification and claims to simply overcome the objections to the specification and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Amendments to the claims contained herein are intended to either broaden the scope thereof or to be of equivalent scope thereof, as originally filed and, thus, are not narrowing amendments.

Claims 8 and 13 are amended to rewrite them into independent form by expressly reciting the subject matter of the claims from which they had respectively depended. Further, Claims 8 and 13, as well as withdrawn Claims 16, 17, 23, 24, 27, and 28, are amended to correct spelling errors and to clarify the wording thereof, as further described in the remarks below. Claims 2-4 and 14 are amended to comport with these amendments to Claims 8 and 13, respectively; and Claim 4 is also amended to clarify the wording thereof that recites the amount of particulate present.

Claim 13, paragraph [0032] of the Specification, and withdrawn Claim 20 are amended, according to the Examiner's suggestion, to restate ".05" as 0.05. Paragraph [0033] of the Specification is amended to correct spelling errors and to clarify the wording thereof, as further described in the remarks below.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

ELECTION

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering their remarks in the election of Group I with traverse.

OBJECTIONS TO THE SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS

The specification and various claims stand objected to for certain informalities. In particular, these objections relate to recitation of “.05,” “3,5,5-trimethyl-3-cyclohexenene-1-one,” “cyclohexene-1-one,” “reduction-agent particulate,” “metallic oxide,” and “n,n'-dicinnamylidene-1,6-hexene.” Applicants have amended occurrences of “.05” to “0.05,” as described above. The remaining objections are addressed below.

Applicants have amended occurrences of “3,5,5-trimethyl-3-cyclohexenene-1-one” to simply “3,5,5-trimethyl-cyclohexene-1-one” in Claims 8 and 13, in withdrawn Claims 27 and 28, and at paragraph [0033] of the Specification. Applicants confirm that the recited unsaturation is intended.

Applicants have amended occurrences of “cyclohexene-1-one” to simply “cyclohexenone” in Claims 8 and 13, in withdrawn Claims 27 and 28, and at paragraph [0033] of the Specification. Applicants confirm that the recited unsaturation is intended.

Applicants have amended occurrences of “magnesium oxide reduction-agent particulate” to simply “magnesium oxide particulate” in Claims 8 and 13, and in withdrawn Claims 16, 17, and 24.

Applicants have amended occurrences of “metallic oxide” to “magnesium oxide” in accordance with this recited antecedent, in Claims 8 and 13, and in withdrawn Claims 16, 17, and 24.

Applicants have amended occurrences of “n,n'-dicinnamylidene-1,6-hexene” to “N,N'-dicinnamylidene-1,6-hexane” in Claims 13 and 14, and in withdrawn Claim 23. Applicants confirm that the recited saturation is intended, and would be understood by one of ordinary skill in the polymer field; e.g., N,N'-dicinnamylidene-1,6-hexane is commercially available as dicinnamylidene-1,6-hexanediamine under the tradenames DIAK-3 (from DuPont, Wilmington, Del.) and V-3 (from Daikin Industries, Ltd., Orangeburg, N.Y.).

Applicants thank the Examiner for pointing out these misspellings and informalities. Applicants have reviewed the Application and found further occurrences that have now been amended in the Specification as follows:

- “n,n'-dicinnamylidene-1,6-hexene” is amended in paragraphs [0024], [0027], [0034](d), and [0047];
- “3,5,5-trimethyl-3-cyclohexenene-1-one” and “cyclohexene-1-one” are amended in paragraph [0034](g); and
- “Banburry” is amended to “Banbury” in paragraphs [0044] and [0047].

Finally, Claims 8 and 13, and withdrawn Claim 28, are amended to recite “a cellosolve acetate” instead of “butyl cellulose acetate. Support for these amendments is found, e.g., in original Claims 7 and 27, and at paragraph [0033] of the Specification.

All other occurrences of objected claim language are found in claims that have now been cancelled. Thus, Applicants submit that the above-described amendments overcome all of the stated grounds of objection and respectfully request that these objections be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, 9-12 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hoover et al. (US 6,410,630 B1).

Claims 1-5, 9-12 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Osen et al. (US 2003/0144400 A1).

Claims 1, 4-7, 9-12 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Close (US 4,421,878).

Independent Claims 1 and 29 are cancelled. The other claims subject to these rejections are either cancelled or amended as described below. Applicants submit that these amendments moot the rejections and respectfully request that they be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Osen et al. (US 2003/0144400 A1) in view of Hoover et al. (US 6,410,630 B1).

Claims 2-3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Close (US 4,421,878) in view of Hoover et al. (US 6,410,630 B1).

Claims 6-7 have are cancelled. Claims 2-3 are amended as described below. Applicants submit that these amendments moot the rejections and respectfully request that they be withdrawn.

OBJECTED WOULD-BE-ALLOWABLE CLAIMS

Claim 8 and Claim 13, with its dependent Claims 14 and 15, stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 8 and 13 are rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Many of the above-described amendments of Claims 8 and 13 have been made as a result of this rewriting, which incorporates, e.g., the subject matter of rejected Claim 1. In light of the incorporation of the subject matter of Claim 1 into Claim 8, Claims 2-4 are amended to depend instead from Claim 8.

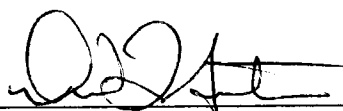
Applicants submit that these amendments overcome the objections and respectfully request that they be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and consider the present application in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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